

1908 and a somewhat easier financial condition, it was the intention, as expressed at a previous meeting of the Council, to resume the active organization work which had previously been done by the Secretary. This, however, was greatly interfered with by the operations of the Plague Committee and the resulting Citizens' Health Committee, which required almost the entire time of several officers of the Society, notably the President and the Secretary, who had planned to undertake the organization work.

Your Council earnestly recommends that, as the holder of our note for \$2,000.00, Mr. W. C. Tait, is perfectly willing to allow the note to run longer, only a portion of it be taken up this year and the funds thus made available be judiciously employed in continuing the interrupted work of organization. Your Council believes that the importance of awakening the interest of the general profession in the work which should be done by county medical societies, can not be overestimated; that the activity of physicians in their several counties, to the end that the County Medical Society shall become of the greatest educational value to the public, safeguarding the public in all sanitary matters and guiding it in all questions of hygiene, should in every way be encouraged. In some sections are county societies which have actively taken up the work of enlightening the public on health matters, with the most gratifying results; such societies must soon be, where they are not already, recognized by their respective communities as representing to the fullest degree an educated scientific profession, and as such receive, without reserve, the respect of the public to which our profession is entitled but which it does not always receive. We therefore recommend that a sum not to exceed \$1,000.00 be, in the discretion of the Council, applied in liquidation of the note for \$2,000.00 which falls due this June, and that the balance be continued.

We believe that it would be highly advantageous to call together the presidents and secretaries of county medical societies and the members of the Council to discuss ways and means of organization and other matters of interest to the life and activity of the County Medical Society, on which is built the whole structure of medical organization. What can be done for our profession and for the public good has been clearly hinted at in the restoration of the \$5.00 examination fee, and more recently in stimulating public interest in the subject of plague in San Francisco. The Council feels that at this meeting there should be a full and frank discussion by the delegates present, of the conditions existing in the various parts of the state, which would undoubtedly result in many valuable suggestions for continuing organization work.

The work of the society, and its expenses, have slowly but surely increased, whereas our revenue, owing to the action of the House of Delegates last year in deciding that certain classes of remedies might not be advertised in the JOURNAL, has somewhat declined. We therefore recommend that the

assessment for the year 1909 be fixed at \$3.00 per member, as has been the case for the last two years. The Council believes that the benefits which the members receive through the office and the publications of the society are worth at least \$3.00.

Respectfully submitted.

C. G. KENYON,
Chairman of Council.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

To the President and Members of the House of Delegates:

Gentlemen: Herewith I have the honor to hand you the report of the Secretary and Editor of your publications.

During the year 1907 one of the principal occupations of the secretary was an endeavor to save money in order that the obligations of previous years and the losses from the disaster of 1906, might be made up. This matter will be presented to you by the Council and will sufficiently reveal the financial condition of the Society.

Publications.—The Register has been a source of expense to the Society for some years. For this reason the Council authorized the Secretary to enter into an agreement with Mr. H. Kaplan which released the Society from all financial obligations and secured a sufficient number of copies for all members. The Society supplies the information and copyrights the book; Mr. Kaplan publishes it and furnishes a copy to each member. In this way a saving of from \$200.00 to \$500.00 is secured. It has been extremely difficult to secure accurate information for the *Register* and the last edition contained a larger number of errors than usual. The work has gone steadily forward, however, and we believe that the next edition will be more accurate.

The JOURNAL, in spite of the panic and some other adverse conditions, did well from a business point of view during 1907, as you may see from the financial statement in your hands. During the present year the gross amount which we confidently expected to receive from advertising will be less than in previous years, largely due to two causes. The ruling that no preparations which had not been approved by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the A. M. A. should be advertised in our JOURNAL after January 1, 1908, or the expiration of existing contracts, caused us to drop several pages of advertising, which it was highly desirable that we should drop. The second cause acting upon us adversely was the panic which occurred last fall. That is the time of year when advertisers, as a rule, make up their lists of journals and appropriate a certain amount of money for the following year, and as many firms were more or less alarmed and cut down expenses, a certain line of probable advertisers were not secured. We have dispensed, however, with the services of an advertising manager, thus securing the full benefit of all advertisements and as a result the net amount which is in sight for JOURNAL advertising during the year 1908 is almost as much as the net amount last year when a

considerable commission was paid on all of our business. We have secured an advertising agent in New York and another in Chicago, both of whom are acting for some fifteen state association journals, and in due course we may expect to receive some new business from these sources; in fact, about two pages of advertising have been thus secured.

Membership.—The card file was not re-established during the past year, owing to shortness of funds, but work will probably be begun upon it this year. The list of members as of April 1st, which has been handed you, is somewhat deceptive in that it shows a loss of some 160 members from the figures last year. In San Francisco alone, something over 100 members were reported last year though their whereabouts could not be given and they had not paid up their dues to that county society. This year these have been dropped. Work is under way, however, to thoroughly go over the non-members of San Francisco County and it is believed that one or two hundred members will be added in the next few months. Los Angeles County also shows a loss in membership, but indications are that many of those suspended will be reinstated and that the present loss will be more than made up during the year.

Conditions in the smaller county societies show an interesting contrast. A number of them have increased very markedly in solidity and activity, during the past year, and have improved in tone and in work, if not in numbers, in a way that is most encouraging. On the other hand there are a number which have almost lapsed into somnolent death. If we investigate closely, we find that all those societies which have been busy, have improved and that those which have not improved are those in which no attempt is made to do any portion of the work which should be done by our profession, as units and as an organization, in the matter of scientific improvement or education of the public. I believe that semi-public meetings, to be addressed by one or more members of the Council, will stimulate interest in these county societies; and if the recommendations of your Council are accepted, it will be quite possible to perform this work in a satisfactory manner during the present year. In one or two counties where the secretary has been able to hold such meetings, the result has been highly beneficial and lasting.

At the last meeting of the A. M. A. all the secretaries of State associations in attendance were called together to meet with the officers of the Association and a general discussion of organization matters followed. This meeting was so satisfactory that it was decided to effect permanent organization and to hold a meeting of secretaries each year. The organization has been formed and the secretary of each State medical association has been requested to place the matter before his association or society. It is recommended by this association of state secretaries that, in order to keep the State organizations in closer touch with the American Medical Association, each State organization, in so far as possible, send its secretary to the meetings of the A. M. A.

as a delegate, and pay all, or at least a portion, of his expenses. A number of state associations have taken favorable action upon this request. Certainly, so far as your secretary is concerned, nothing connected with the last meeting of the A. M. A. was of more interest or value to him than the meeting of state secretaries just referred to.

There are many separate committees or commissions, some of this society and others having other origins, which have to do, more or less, with the education of the public on sanitary lines and the enactment of public health legislation. In some way all of these various bodies, now having a very miscellaneous aspect, should be brought into line and into touch with each other in order that time, work and energy may be economized and greater usefulness result. Such action will, I believe, have a decidedly beneficial effect upon county societies, for the more work a society has to do, the more are its members brought together and the better is the tone of the society. Furthermore, next year we are to be blessed (?) with another session of the Legislature and no time should be lost by county societies in instructing possible candidates and future legislators upon the public health needs of our State. In this work the various and heterogeneous committees and commissions, if brought closer together, may be of the greatest usefulness.

Respectfully submitted,

PHILIP MILLS JONES,
Secretary and Editor.

San Francisco, April 1st, 1908.

REPORT OF THE PURE FOOD COMMISSION.

By F. C. E. MATTISON, M. D., Chairman.

The Pure Food Commission was a special Committee of our Society authorized by the House of Delegates and Council at the 1907 meeting at Del Monte, and consists of five members appointed by the President of the Society.

Our President, Dr. Evans, appointed on the first Commission, the following members: Dr. F. C. E. Mattison (Chairman) Pasadena, Dr. Langley Porter, San Francisco; Dr. W. F. Snow, Stanford; Dr. Stanley P. Black, Pasadena, and Dr. George H. Kress, Los Angeles.

At its meeting of organization Dr. Snow was present, and at that time Dr. Kress was elected Secretary and the general work to be attempted mapped out.

The plan of organization deemed best, assumed the following form:—The Committee of five, or the Pure Food Commission of the State Medical Society, was to do the work of a central executive committee, supervise the general organization of local pure food committees throughout the state, and act as a clearing house and aid in all efforts to promote the work for which the commission had been formed.

The commission decided to try and have pure food committees appointed from every county medical association in California, and to that end letters